Planning Commission Vision-2020

2434. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently released a report on the Planning Commission Vision-2020 statement;

(b) whether as per the statement, poverty would be reduced to 10 per cent of the population by 2020 if a substantial growth rate of 9 per cent is achieved; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the recommendation of the Vision Statement 2020 since poverty alleviation being the highest priority of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Report of the Committee on India Vision 2020 has been released.

(b) The compounded effect of achieving the targeted annual GDP growth rate of 8.5 to 9 per cent over the next 20 years would result in a quadrupling of the real per capita income and almost eliminating the percentage of Indians living below the poverty line.

(c) The medium-term policy recommendations of the government are incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan Document, as approved by the National Development Council.

Task Force's recommendations on Employment Opportunities

2435. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA :
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether recommendations of the Task Force on employment opportunities has been examined by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission constituted a "Special Group on Targeting 10 Million Employment Opportunities Per year" under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission *vide* Order No. P-12049/9/01-LEM/ERS dated 5.9.2001. The Special Group has examined the recommendations of the Task, Force on Employment Opportunities in detail. The Special Group gave recommendations for generating additional employment in the Tenth Plan. It identified sectors/ subsectors with employment potential like agriculture, including social forestry, animal husbandry, fishing, horticulture and related areas and small and medium industries construction tourism information technology, financial sector, education and health.

(c) Does not arise.

Downsizing Assam Government

2436. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has suggested downsizing financial crippled Assam Government as 90 per cent of its budget is spent on payment of salaries only, and that the State Government, having a monthly overdraft of Rs. 200 crore is unable to mobilise even 10 per cent of funds needed for many Centrally-sponsored development schemes; and

(b) if so, the factors responsible for this as in 1950-51 its per capita income was 4 per cent above national average and in 1998-99 it was 41 per cent below the national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the partition of the country the State lost on trade and commerce with the neighbouring areas as riverine transportation through Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) stopped. Further, over the period State's population grew at an average rate of around 4% as against the national average rate of 2.4% due to immigration from neighbouring states and Bangladesh.

Poor infrastructure, lack of fiscal prudence, continuous de-forestation, recurring floods and erosion are the other major factors responsible for